

CORONA

COR-0239

25 Nov 1958

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP85B00803R000100040044-2

Memo for M/G Jacob E. Smart
A/VCOS/USAR

USAF review(s)
completed.

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Subj: Distribution of Responsibilities for CORONA

". . .The wording of the Project Outline was carefully devised to give expression to a White House desire. It had been expressly stipulated when the project received oral approval that all funding for research and development and for the procurement of hardware should be provided by the CIA and by the ARPA and that the BMD shld act as their exec agt in the management of the program.

"5. In practice, the management of this program was handled exactly in accordance with the statement quoted from the Prime Contractor's Work Statement/ and proceeded extremely smoothly until major financial problems developed in Sept 58 and gave rise to a protracted review of both the financial status and the content of both the CORONA and the SENTRY programs. In the course of the review, a number of individuals and orgs became involved in managerial decisions concerning (a) the allocation of costs, (b) the best use to be made of certain of the Thor-boosted flights in the newly-named DISCOVERY series, (c) cover stories and publicity, and (d) possible modifications in the SENTRY ~~xxx~~ program. Such multiple participation in these decisions ;inevitably gave rise to considerable confusion.

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NRO and USAF review(s) completed.

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"6. It now appears that the first three sets of decisions have been substantially made and that the fourth is unlikely directly to affect the DISCOVERY series, or within it the schedule of CORONA flights. There would appear to be a possibility, therefore, that responsibility for day-to-day managerial decisions could revert in most matters to the Ballistic Missile Division and in certain others, especially covert procurement, cover and security, to this Agency. The ARPS, Hqs, USAF, and Hqs ARDC would of course wish to follow the program and would be concerned with any policy decisions.

/s/ RMBJr.

cc: Cdr/ARDC

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